



Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers	Permit Application No: _____	SWG-2018-00792
	Date Issued: _____	20 November 2018
	Comments _____	
Galveston District	Due: _____	20 December 2018

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT
AND
TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE: To inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is not the entity proposing or performing the proposed work, nor has the Corps taken a position, in favor or against the proposed work.

AUTHORITY: This application will be reviewed pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

APPLICANT: City of Portland
1900 Billy G. Webb Drive
Portland, Texas 78374-3705
Telephone 361-777-4513
POC: Mr. Randy Wright

AGENT: HDR Engineering, Inc
555 North Carancahua Street, Suite 1600
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401
Telephone 361-696-3341
POC: Ms. Christine Magers

LOCATION: The project site is located on the shoreline of Nueces Bay northeast of Indian Point along the Nueces Bay Causeway's southbound Frontage Road, in Portland, San Patricio County, Texas. The project can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map titled: Portland, Texas.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):
Latitude: 27.857842 North; Longitude: 97.353189 West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to construct a 60-foot by 30-foot boat ramp and dredge approximately 80 cubic yards (CY) that will be hauled away and placed within an upland area. The proposed project will consist of the placement of 170 CY of fill material, for the 60-foot by 30-foot boat ramp, below mean lower low water (MLLW) and total permanent impacts of 0.03 acre to Section 10 waters. The applicant proposes to construct an 8-foot by 12-foot covered fish cleaning station and 2 elevated, 5-foot wide L-shaped walkways on each side of the boat ramp. Elevated walkways will extend approximately 40 linear feet (LF) from the parking area and the southern walkway extending approximately 75 LF to the south and the northern walkway extending 45 LF to the north.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts by using silt fencing for sedimentation controls during construction and avoiding impacts outside of their project boundary.

MITIGATION: The applicant has not proposed to mitigate for the proposed impacts because no temporary or permanent impacts to special aquatic sites are expected.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site is approximately 5.3 acres of city-owned land. The site is an existing undeveloped boat ramp along the shoreline of Nueces Bay. The boat ramp area is shell hash with a steep bank that has been degraded from high vehicular traffic and recreational use.

NOTES: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This project information has not been verified by the Corps. As of the date of this Public Notice, the Corps has received but not yet verified the wetland delineation. The applicant's plans are enclosed in 6 sheets.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. Since permit assessment is a continuing process, this preliminary determination of EIS requirement will be changed if data or information brought forth in the coordination process is of a significant nature.

Our evaluation will also follow the guidelines published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

OTHER AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS:

Consistency with the State of Texas Coastal Management Plan is required. The applicant has stated that the proposed activity complies with Texas' approved Coastal Management Program goals and policies and will be conducted in a manner consistent with said program.

This project incorporates the requirements necessary to comply with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Tier I project criteria. Tier I projects are those which result in a direct impact of three acres or less of waters of the state or 1500 linear feet of streams (or a combination of the two is below the threshold) for which the

applicant has incorporated best management practices and other provisions designed to safeguard water quality. The Corps has received a completed checklist and signed statement-fulfilling Tier I criteria for the project. Accordingly, a request for 401 certification is not necessary and there will be no additional TCEQ review.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: The staff archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon these properties: The proposed work and/or structures are of such limited nature and scope that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon a historic property, even if present within the affected area.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: A US Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) report submitted by HDR indicates that designated critical habitat for the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) was identified within the project site. Threatened species or their critical habitat may be affected by the proposed work. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife will be initiated to assess the effect on endangered species.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on Essential Fish Habitat or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW FACTORS: This application will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR 320-332, the Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, and other pertinent laws, regulations and executive orders. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, will be considered: among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic

properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts upon which a decision by the Corps of Engineers may be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

PUBLIC HEARING: The purpose of a public hearing is to solicit additional information to assist in the evaluation of the proposed project. Prior to the close of the comment period, any person may make a written request for a public hearing, setting forth the particular reasons for the request. The District Engineer will determine if the reasons identified for holding a public hearing are sufficient to warrant that a public hearing be held. If a public hearing is warranted, all known interested persons will be notified of the time, date, and location.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: All comments pertaining to this Public Notice must reach this office on or before **20 December 2018**. Extensions of the comment period may be granted for valid reasons provided a written request is received by the limiting date. **If no comments are received by that date, it will be considered that there are no objections.** Comments and requests for additional information should reference our file number, **SWG-2018-00792**, and should be submitted to:

Corpus Christi Field Office
Regulatory Division, CESWG-RD-R
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
5151 Flynn Parkway, Suite 306
Corpus Christi, Texas 78411-4318
361-814-5847 Phone
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DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS